



Visitors parking along unimproved roadside areas is causing damage to resources.



Pathway at the Windows

Transportation Alternatives Being Analyzed

The project team is currently analyzing the following transportation alternatives for implementation at Arches National Park within the next five years.

Alternative A: No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative (Alternative A) would involve no change or improvements to current transportation functions in the park. This alternative provides the opportunity to analyze current problems and challenges related to: parking management and congestion at park features, visitor experience and resource protection, and the implications of not making any improvements or adding any new transportation facilities and services.

Alternative B: Implementation of Improvements to Enhance Visitor Access and Experience (Action Alternative)

This action alternative includes proposed improvements and programs that could be implemented in the near term, upon completion of an environmental assessment and the availability of funding, including:

- Various scenarios for optional interpretive motorized tours into the park
- Phased programs to disperse visitation and reduce congestion at peak periods, such as

- reservations at key attractions (Delicate Arch, Windows, etc.)
- Recommendations for improving and/or closing roadside pull-off areas in the park
- Traffic calming improvements to improve safety
- Recommendations for interpretive exhibits and visitor information and signs to inform visitors about tour opportunities
- Partnering strategies with Moab and regional interests to disperse visitation
- Traffic congestion management strategies appropriate for the park and the region (i.e. parking lot monitoring, electronic signs, information kiosks, etc.)
- Improvement of existing parking areas to control illegal parking and resource damage

Longer-Term Options Being Studied

Concurrent with development of the Transportation Implementation Plan, the team is studying potential transportation options for possible longer-term implementation at the park, pending further analysis and public review through a future GMP amendment process. Elements being studied include:

- Continue to develop partnership opportunities with Moab, Grand County, Bureau of Land Management and others to explore shuttle routes from downtown Moab to the park Visitor Center, with intermediate stops at hotels, campgrounds, park and rides, etc.
- Options for improving and enhancing access, safety, and mobility for bicyclists and pedestrians within the park, including analysis of potential shoulder widening and multi-use pathways where appropriate in the park
- Phased park-based shuttle system (potential considerations and costs related to various shuttle routes/operational scenarios)
- Shuttle-based visitor management solutions
- Additional roadway and traffic-calming improvements that likely would be needed if a regular park-based shuttle system is implemented
- Additional amenities, picnicking facilities, and shade structures and other improvements for shuttle riders/visitors at shuttle stops/hubs
- Additional interpretive exhibits/ signage that would be supportive to a park-based shuttle system

Project Update

Since the beginning of the project, the Project Team has gone through an in-depth public involvement process that included public workshops in February 2003 and November 2003, and distribution and analysis of visitor surveys and traffic data in the park over the spring and summer of 2003. The team is currently identifying and analyzing potential transportation solutions and preparing an Environmental Assessment for solutions to be implemented in the near term. The schedule for completion of the Transportation Plan is depicted below. Look for future updates on the progress of the Transportation Plan and public meeting announcements as the project proceeds.

Public meetings to present the Transportation Implementation Plan recommendations and environmental analysis will be held in Spring 2005.



Long-term options include pedestrian improvements to increase safety throughout the park.

Project Schedule

